

NO-INVASION PLEDGE

Backgrounder - December 31, 1962

QUESTION: I wonder if we can explore the Cuban situation a little, sir, particularly in view of the language you used Saturday. This was widely held by some Cubans and some Americans to be holding out a new degree of hope of U.S. backing for either an internal upset, or possibly another invasion. Can you tell us how you look at the Cuban situation?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I think the language that I used seemed to me to be in accord with what I said at the press conference on November 19th or 20th in regard to the Castro regime, our hostility towards it, our hope for a change in the government in Cuba. It was also an effort to answer the arguments that Castro and others might make that the United States wanted to return to the status quo. Part of the speech that was perhaps lost sight of was to indicate what our political viewpoint was towards Cuba, what sort of a Cuba we hoped to see develop in following a change in orientation.

I didn't say anything about an invasion of Cuba and the United States has no intention, unless there is some aggressive act by Castro, obviously, of launching a war against Cuba or an invasion of Cuba.

QUESTION: What is the status, Mr. President, of the language about no invasion, the pledge of "no invasion".

THE PRESIDENT: As you know, our pledge was balanced off by some assurances of Khrushchev. I think the November press conference indicates our opposition to Castro. It is the policy of the United States to work for a change in the Communist regime in Cuba. It is not our intention, under present conditions, to invade Cuba, obviously, or to begin war against Cuba, providing Cuba lives in peace with its neighbors, or providing Cuba does not engage in aggressive acts.